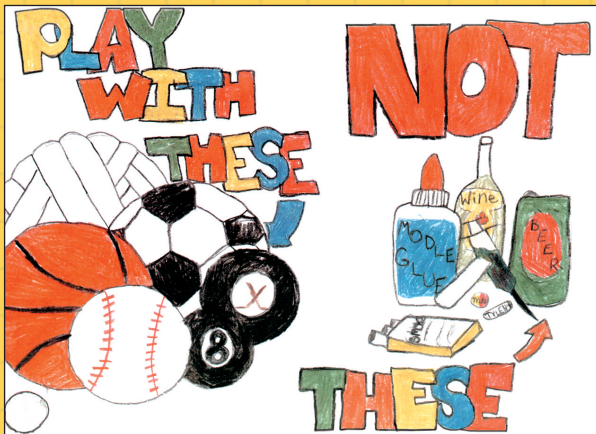


It has been estimated that over 70 percent of all crime committed is in some way associated with drug or alcohol use. The two most important elements of reducing crime associated with chemical abuse are education and prevention.

The Dakota County Youth Accountability Program is designed to appropriately deal with violations by juveniles of alcohol and marijuana possession laws by emphasizing an education/prevention/communication approach.

This program is an alternative to court for first time offenders and its goal is to provide education to help prevent further alcohol or marijuana use by juveniles.



Kelsey Gergen - Pinecrest Elementary, Hastings - 2001

Resources

First Call for Help

(651) 291-0211

TDD 1-800-627-3529

(Assistance to citizens in search of community services)

Dakota County Public Health

(651) 554-6100

Dakota County Crisis Intervention

(952) 891-7171

Dakota County Detox Center

(651) 437-4209

Dakota County

Child & Family Service - Intake

(952) 891-7400

Dakota County Child Protection

(952) 891-7459

River Ridge Treatment Center

(952) 894-7722

Minnesota law requires that schools be informed of all alleged drug and alcohol violations by a student occurring on or off of school property. This notice will be given whether or not the juvenile chooses to participate in the program.

For more information regarding the Youth Accountability Program, contact:

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Dakota County Attorney's Office

1560 Highway 55

Hastings, MN 55033

(651) 438-4438

www.co.dakota.mn.us/attorney

**ALCOHOL
& MARIJUANA**

YOUTH ACCOUNTABILITY PROGRAM

**An alternative to
Juvenile Court for
first time offenders**

**JAMES C. BACKSTROM
DAKOTA COUNTY ATTORNEY**



Dangerous

If you or someone you know has been using drugs, there is help available. Talk to a school counselor, a parent, or friend and check the back of this brochure for some valuable resource numbers.

"You can go where the crowd goes, but you don't have to do what the crowd does."

slogan by Betsy Booton,
from St. Michael's School,
West St. Paul, MN (1995)

Who is Eligible

for the Program?

1. First time offenders who have committed a possession/consumption of alcohol or possession of marijuana or drug paraphernalia offense and who were not the driver of a vehicle at the time of the offense.
2. Juveniles referred by school officials because of alcohol or drug use.
3. Juveniles referred by the Court.
4. Any juvenile who voluntarily enrolls in the program.

Why the Youth Accountability Program?

The program is an alternative to court for juveniles involved in illegal use of alcohol or marijuana.

What are the Components of the Program?

1. The juvenile must attend an educational class.
2. At least one parent must attend the class with the juvenile.
3. The juvenile must pay a fee at the start of the class. If a family is financially unable to pay the fee, but desires to participate in the program, the juvenile's parent or guardian should contact the Program Coordinator.
4. Prior to attending the class, the juvenile will complete a chemical use questionnaire that must be brought to the class.
5. The cost of the program is less than the cost of the fine the juvenile would receive in court.

What Benefits are provided through the Program?

1. The juvenile will be informed of communication tools and knowledge to make healthy decisions regarding illegal alcohol and drug activity. In addition, the class offers education concerning alcohol and drug use.
2. Parent/juvenile interaction and communication.
3. A consistent and appropriate sanction for all first time offenders.
4. The juvenile's citation will be dismissed after attendance at the class.
5. The juvenile will not lose their driver's license for 30 days.

What Happens

when a juvenile doesn't choose to participate in the Program?

Marijuana is often a gateway drug to other more deadly drugs. Using marijuana is dangerous and addictive.

1. The County Attorney's Office will notify the Court to process the juvenile's citation.
2. The juvenile will be notified of a date to appear in court.
3. If the juvenile is found to have committed the offense, the result would be a fine and a driver's license suspension.
4. The juvenile will have a court record of being found to have committed the offense.

Don't Use